

Jo Bonner

THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



During the month of October, members of Congress have been working in their districts, attending meetings and visiting with constituents. Prior to this district work period, members of the House held more than 20 border security field hearings at various sites along our border, hearing testimony regarding drug cartels, illegal alien smuggling rings and gang activity operating on our side of the Mexican border. It is no secret — our southern border is in a state of crisis and in desperate need of infrastructure. In response, the House passed the Secure Fence Act of 2006, H.R. 6061, to provide for over 700 miles of two-layered reinforced fencing along the southwest border. The bill was signed by the president last week.

Regardless of the election outcome, one issue that will likely be addressed in November is delaying looming cuts to Medicare's physician payment rates. Such cuts would reduce payments to doctors for treating Medicare patients. These cuts could cause doctors to stop accepting new Medicare patients thereby limiting seniors' access to health care.

Following the November elections, Congress will return to Washington and make a mad dash to the finish line. At this point, the "finish line" or adjournment date is unknown and mostly depends on which party is in control of Congress following the elections.

MY VOTING REPORT CARD

- National Rifle Assoc. (NRA) and Gun Owners of America — received an A rating for my pro-2nd Amendment voting record
- 60 Plus Association — received Senior Citizens Honor
- The Food Distribution Industry — received Thomas Jefferson award
- Americans for Tax Reform — 100% rating for 109th Congress
- Alliance for Worker Freedom — received Guardian of Worker Freedom award
- American Conservative Union — received one of the Best and Brightest Members of Congress award
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) — received Legislative Excellence award

SUMMER INTERNS



The third group of this year's Washington interns joined me on the steps of the Capitol for a photo. Pictured with me are (l to r): Nicholas Rueter, Josh Hornady, Alex Terry, Julia Johnson, Jessica Fillingim, Elizabeth Pellet, and David DeKeyser.



I was honored that my district interns joined me for lunch in Mobile. Pictured with me are (l to r): Finch Fulton; Ann Marie Russell; Joy Easterling; my District Intern Coordinator, Courtney Soward; Allison Busbee; Mary Emily Meztista; and James Wenzel.

NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL AT THE PORT OF MOBILE

Earlier this month, I, along with Senator Richard Shelby, Mobile Mayor Sam Jones, and Mobile County Commissioner Steve Nodine, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new container terminal at the Port of Mobile.

This new facility will open the Port of Mobile as the new gateway for containerized cargo to U.S. markets creating 300 permanent jobs — a number that is expected to increase to 470 jobs over the next ten years.

One of the driving forces in a decision to locate a new business is transportation infrastructure, and Mobile is uniquely situated to provide transportation access to major markets across the country with its two interstate systems, a downtown airport, five railroads, and nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterway connections.

Not only will this new facility enable the Port of Mobile to handle the needs of Alabama but also the needs of manufacturers throughout the southeast.

Currently, the Port of Mobile ranks 14th in the nation in terms of cargo tonnage. When the terminal is fully operational, Mobile, Alabama, is poised to join an impressive list of other U.S. ports such as Los Angeles, New York, Houston, and Charleston as one of the top ports in the nation.

The new container terminal will be a huge boost for



Jimmy Lyons, Director, Alabama State Port Authority; Mobile Mayor Sam Jones; Tim Parker, Chairman of the Alabama State Port Authority; Senator Richard Shelby; Frank Baragona, President of CMA CGM (America) Inc.; Tony Scioscia, President of APM Terminals North America; Mobile Commissioner Steve Nodine and I broke ground for the new container terminal at Choctaw Point.

Alabama's industries — helping them compete and win in today's global economy. It will also help Alabama, as we continue in our efforts to recruit new industries to our state. It is certainly an exciting time for Alabama's state docks—Alabama's doors are open — open to international commerce and open to a bright future.

TROOP 121 VISITS CAPITOL HILL



This past summer, Boy Scout troop 121 from Theodore was in Washington, D.C. My office scheduled tours of the White House and the Capitol for the troop, and I was happy to join them on the Capitol steps for this picture.

From the mailbox...

Congressman Bonner,

Please accept my family's deepest appreciation for the assistance we received from you and your local office.

Without the help of your dedicated staff, we would have likely been permanently buried in the maze of Veterans Administration tape.

After months of my brother and me trying to get burial and survivor benefits for our mother, we were becoming completely frustrated with the Veterans Administration. The process began in December 2005, and we battled the system until I decided we needed help and contacted your office in May 2006. We finally received a check for past due benefits last week. We also appreciate you all keeping us regularly apprised of the status of our claims. We are very fortunate to have a congressman and staff that still believes the government is of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Thank you all for your service to the citizens of the United States.

*Sincerely,
A satisfied constituent*

